

### **REMARKS**

Applicants acknowledge the receipt of the Office Action dated 15 June 2005 in which the Examiner:

1) rejected claims 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over *Uchida* (US Pat. No. 6,836,641) in view of *Quesnel* (US Pat. No. 5,543,909); and

2) allowed claims 1-7 and 13-20.

Applicants wish to express gratitude to the Examiner for the consideration and allowance of claims 1-7 and 13-20. In this Response, Applicants are:

1) amending claim 8.

#### **A. Amendments to Claim 8**

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-12 over the combination of *Uchida* (US Pat. No. 6,836,641) in view of *Quesnel* (US Pat. No. 5,543,909). Without conceding the appropriateness of this rejection, Applicant has elected to amend independent claim 8 to clarify that a buckle forms in the media sheet at the transfer nip by contacting a leading edge of the media sheet with the transfer nip. Neither of the prior art references (*Uchida* and *Quesnel*) relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting independent claim 8 teach or suggest this limitation.

*Uchida* is directed to an image forming apparatus and method that suppresses the formation of creases on a media sheet when forming images on both sides of the media sheet. *Uchida* at 10:18-30 discloses feeding the media sheet S from a supply cassette 15 at a first speed V1 for image formation on a first surface of the sheet S, and re-conveying the sheet S at a second speed V2 for image formation on a second

surface of the sheet S. The second speed V2 is slower than the first speed V1, and as a result, during image formation on the second surface of the sheet S, the wrinkles in the sheet do not gather at the trailing end and instead disperse evenly so that creases do not form. *Uchida* discloses this prevents the creation of unprinted areas in the crease valleys. *Uchida* does not disclose any apparatus or method for aligning the leading edge of the media sheet. Further, *Uchida* does not teach or suggest forming a buckle in the media sheet to align the leading edge.

*Quesnel* is directed to an image forming apparatus and method for a two-step stalled registration roller system, generally indicated at 150. *Quesnel* discloses forming a buckle in the media sheet 110; however, the buckle is not formed at the transfer nip. *Quesnel* at 3:58-61 discloses the media sheet 110 "is conveyed by vertical transport 124 and stalled registration transport 150 past image transfer station 126 to receive an image from photoreceptor 128." *Quesnel* describes the components of the stalled registration system 150 and their operation at 4:27-46:

"The sheet is allowed to buckle into stalled registration roll 157 of registration nip 159 for approximately 10 mm, or an optimum number, to deskew the sheet. Then the registration clutch is engaged to drive the stalled registration roll 157 to advance the sheet, as shown in FIG. 2, until the lead edge reaches a second sensor 160 downstream of the registration roll. At this point, the clutch is disengaged thereby stalling registration roll 157 again and the sheet stops. Preregistration nip 153, which is driven continuously, drives the sheet into the now stalled registration nip 159. The sheet 110 then continues to buckle against movable buckle chamber

member 155 attaining a much larger buckle than is normally possible.

After a predetermined time, stalled roll 157 is again engaged by the clutch in accordance-with a signal from controller 101 in order to drive the sheet to transfer station 126." (Emphasis Added).

*Quesnel* discloses buckling the media sheet at the registration nip 159. The registration nip 159 is remote from the transfer station 126, as the sheet must be driven a distance from the registration nip 159 to the transfer station 126. *Quesnel* reinforces this point by illustrating at Figure 3 the stalled registration system 150 and registration nip 159 is positioned apart from and well upstream of transfer station 126. *Quesnel* does not disclose forming a buckle in the media sheet at a transfer nip within transfer station 126. Further, *Quesnel* does not teach or suggest forming a buckle in the media sheet at a transfer nip by contacting a leading section of the media sheet when the leading section enters the transfer nip.

Thus, even assuming *Uchida* is modified by *Quesnel*, as suggested by the Examiner, the modification still does not teach the claimed invention. *Uchida* in view of *Quesnel* does not teach amended claim 8. If even a single claim limitation is not taught or suggested by the prior art, then that claim cannot be obvious over the prior art. *Application of Glass*, 472 F.2d 1388, 1392 (C.C.P.A. 1973).

Applicant therefore submits that the claimed combination found in amended independent claim 8 is not taught or suggested by the prior art. It cannot be reasonably deduced that a person skilled in the art could combine the *Uchida* and *Quesnel* references to obtain Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, amended independent claim 8 and claims 9-12 depending therefrom are allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicant has further amended claim 8 to correct the antecedent basis informality with respect to the transport belt.

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the above remarks and amendments. Having addressed each of the claims and having provided arguments in favor of allowance, Applicant feels the claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels a telephone conversation is necessary for discussing the issues, he is invited to call the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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